
Detroit Board of Police Commissioners

Documenter name: Damien Benson

Agency: Detroit Board of Police Commissioners

Date: Oct. 10, 2019

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The [Board of Police of Commissioners](#) (BOPC) of the City of Detroit was created in 1974 by City Charter, which was adopted by a vote of the people. The Charter vests broad supervisory authority over the Police Department in the eleven-member civilian Board of Police Commissioners. The BOPC meets every week. Meetings are held at Detroit Public Safety Headquarters each Thursday at 3:00 pm except the second Thursday, when the community meetings are held at 6:30 pm.

The Scene: The meeting was held at St. John Presbyterian Church 1961 Lafayette Blvd. The Church located in the [7th Precinct of the Detroit Police Department](#) and is celebrating its 100th Anniversary. The meeting took place in the David A. Harmon Fellowship Hall and appeared to be large enough to accommodate the meeting. Chair Lisa Carter called the BOPC to order at 6:30 pm with 7 of the 11 Commissioners present. ([Commissioner Willie Burton District 5](#) arrived at 7:07 pm). Approximately 70 people were in the audience at the start of the meeting. The Agenda (image attached) and the Minutes from October 3, 2019, were approved at the start of the meeting.

Meeting Goals:

- **BOPC Officers Report**
- **Resolution Ms. Teresa McCormick**

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Documenter name: Damien Benson

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- **Chief's Report**
- **Human Resources Report**
- **7th Precinct Report**
- **BOPC Standing and Ad Hoc Committee Reports**
- **Report form Board Secretary**
- **Old Business/New Business**
- **Announcements**
- **Public Comments**

BOPC Officers Report:

-The Chair recognized injured and fallen officers and asked for an update from the Chief.

- Chair identified an area of ongoing concern with meetings being held at the Public Safety Headquarters. Commissioner Burton, as well as members of the community have been asking that the BOPC discontinue holding its meetings at the [Detroit Public Safety Headquarters](#) because persons must show Id when entering the building. Commissioner Burton feels that asking people to show Id is a violation of the [Open Meetings Act](#). In previous meetings the Chair has pointed out that the BOPC does not require persons to show id but the building (Public Safety HDQ) requires it. She stated that the BOPC is actively looking at other meeting locations to resolve this issue.

Resolution Ms. Teresa McCormick

Ms. Teresa McCormick was presented with Resolutions recognizing her Community Service from the BOPC (Community Service), Police Chief James Craig (Chief's Award) and the Detroit City Council (Spirit of Detroit Award) image attached.

Chief's Report:

Detroit Board of Police Commissioners

Documenter name: Damien Benson

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Date: Oct. 10, 2019

The Chief's Report was given by Deputy Chief Todd Bettison, he reported that crime in many categories was down with a "slight uptick" 1 % in Homicides. There has been a significant decrease in Car Jackings down 43% from last year. Commissioner Davis (7) asked, "Why has there been such a decrease?" DC Bettison attributed the drop to an expansion of the [Green Light Program](#) at Gas Stations, Citizens Radio Patrols and Community Groups such as [Detroit 300](#).

Human Resources Report: The Chair stated there would be no report from the Director due to an injury.

7th Precinct Report:

-Captain Conway Petty reported that Motor Vehicle Theft was up 5%, Robberies up 2%, Burglaries up 14%, Homicides down 18%, Violent Crime down 11%, Property Crime down 13%.

-Strategies to Reduce Crime: Increased use of technology, use data from Real Crime Center, Apprehend individuals with Outstanding Warrants.

-Community Programs: The Precinct now has an "embedded" Social Worker and a Domestic Violence Advocate. The Domestic Violence Advocate will assist with Personal Protection Orders. In the future the Neighborhood Police Officers (NPO's) will be conducting Anti- Bullying and Conflict Resolution programs and classes.

-Future Community Events: [Alkebu-lan Village](#) Community 5k Run, Halloween Haunted House/Trunk or Treat, Turkey Bingo.

BOPC Standing and Ad Hoc Committee Reports: There were no reports.

Report from Board Secretary: No report

Old Business: Commissioner Burton made a Motion to hold all BOPC meetings in the Community. Second by Commissioner Davis.

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Discussion on the Motion: Commissioner Burch asked, "Why is this issue keep being raised at every meeting?". Commissioner Burton attempted to respond but was not recognized by the Chair. Commissioner Holt commented that the Chair had mentioned at the beginning of the meeting that this issue was being investigated. Commissioner Burton again tried to respond but was not recognized by the Chair. A member of the audience asked, "What is the time frame"? The Chair responded by saying that this was not the time for public comment. Commissioner Burton once again attempted to speak. Discussion back and forth took place, eventually the vote was called. Motion failed 6-2?

New Business:

-Chair called for "New Business" one of the Commissioners attempted to make an announcement. The Chair asked the member to wait for that item on the Agenda. Almost immediately the Chair moved to the next item on the Agenda "Announcements" by starting to read when the next meetings of the BOPC were going to be held. Commissioner Burton tried to interrupt by saying that he had "New Business" by attempting to make a Motion to have all Sub-Committee Meetings open to the Public. The Chair would not recognize him.

Announcements: Commissioner Burch discussed an event that was being held at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church October 21, 2019.

Public Comments: The Chair called for Public Comments before she began Commissioner Burton interrupted by saying "You would not let me speak during New Business because of your arrogance". Are you going to let me make an Announcement? Once recognized he simply stated "Y'all see what is going on here? After his statement Public Comments were called. There were 3 speakers.

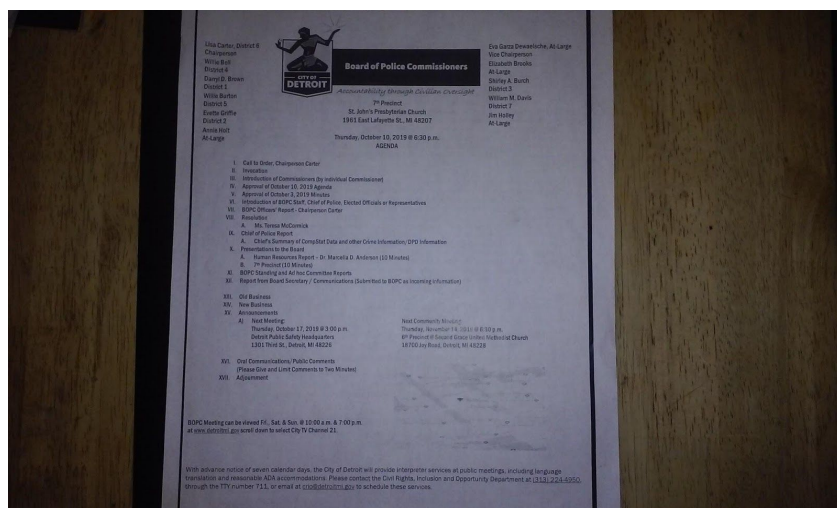
Speaker 1- Commended the BOPC for the work they are doing.

Speaker 2- Requested that more Officers be placed on the street working instead of "sitting around and eating everything up.

Speaker 3- Crystal (?) Bonner- Began by stating that this was "Supposed to be a Community meeting" by addressing Commissioner Willie Bell who had mentioned at a previous meeting that he hoped they (BOPC) could have a good meetings without interruption from the audience. She went on to refer to an incident which took place at the last Community Meeting where an "Older

Date: Oct. 10, 2019

Lady” swung her cane around and hit two people. She stated that the Chair is always admonishing her (Ms. Bonner) for “going back and forth with her” but the older lady was allowed to get away with what she termed a “Felony Assault”. She attempted to get agreement from the Police Officers present in the room. Ms. Bonner continued to speak on a several topics until her time expired. When her time expired, the Chair informed her that “Your time is up” Ms. Bonner responded by saying “No it isn’t” She continued to speak. The Chair again informed her that her time was up. Ms. Bonner continued to talk. The Chair informed Ms. Bonner that she would be removed if she did not stop talking. Ms. Bonner continued. The Chair asked DPD to remove Ms. Bonner. One of the DPD Officers present approached Ms. Bonner and appeared to ask Ms. Bonner to step away from the microphone. While he was talking to her, Commissioner Holt made a motion to Adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded, a vote was taken, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:24 pm.



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